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A GUIDE

TO THE

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

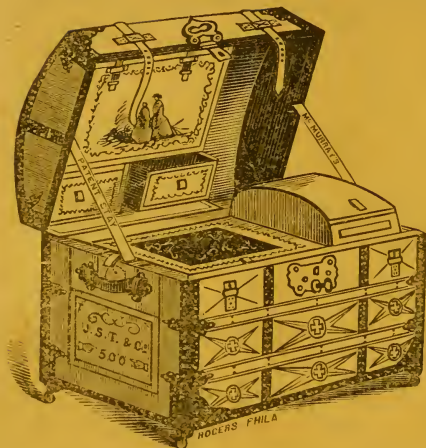


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AND

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Washington City.

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Approaching the city from the north, by way of the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the prominent object that meets the expectant gaze of the visitor is the lofty Dome of the Capitol, surmounted by a bronze statue of the Goddess of Liberty, and marking the spot where the nation's laws are made and its liberties protected.

On the left is the eastern section of the city, or what is known as the "Capitol Hill" and "Navy Yard," comprising the 5th and 6th wards. Although the Capitol building fronts towards this part of the city, and it was originally designed to be the fashionable and most populous section, it is, with the exception of the immediate vicinity of the Capitol building, but thinly settled. Nevertheless it is one of the most pleasant locations in the city, being very healthful, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country, and rapidly increasing in the number of its population and the value of its property.

On the right is the main portion of the city, and out of the mass of private dwellings, and churches rearing their lofty spires, the visitor can easily distinguish the many white marble structures indicating the location of some Government Department.

But the train has arrived in the Depôt, and we are ready to alight. The front of the Depôt faces on "New Jersey avenue," a wide street leading directly from the Capitol, which is but a few rods to our left. We will find no lack of "accommodating" hackmen,\* who assure us of safe and rapid conveyance to any part of the city; and, to their credit be it spoken, they are generally faithful in the fulfillment of their promises. But each hotel has its omnibus

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\*See list of charges.

always ready;\* or, if the passenger prefers, he can take the street cars: the F-street line of which has a car immediately in front of the *Depôt* on the arrival of each train, and the Pennsylvania avenue line a car stationed a little to the left of the *Depôt*. The former line passes through portions of D, 5th, F, 14th, H, and 17th streets, and Pennsylvania avenue, and by or within three minutes walk of the City Hall, Seaton House, Metropolitan and National Hotels, Post and Patent Offices, Ebbitt House, Treasury, War, Navy, and Internal Revenue Departments, and the Executive Mansion. The fare is 7 cents, and the route is through some of the most pleasant streets of Washington. The Pennsylvania-avenue line (or, as it is more properly called, the Washington and Georgetown) goes by way of Pennsylvania avenue—the principal business street—directly by the Capitol, the National, Metropolitan, Kirkwood, and Willard Hotels, Treasury, War, Navy, and Internal Revenue Departments, and Executive Mansion, continuing its route to Georgetown. The fare is 6 cents. In this connection we would notice, that this line of cars, on its return, traverses the same route; but, continuing its course beyond the *Depôt*, goes through the Capitol Grounds to the Navy Yard, a distance, from one end of the route to the other, of 6 miles. It has two branches, one traversing 7th street from the lower or river-end, making connection with the southern mail boats, to its upper end or northern boundary of the city; and the other branch traversing 14th street from the Treasury Department, passing the State Department, out to the northern boundary: making in all, belonging to this line, 12 miles of street railroad. The cars on all these routes (with the exception of the 14th street branch) run every 3 minutes, beginning at 5, a. m., and closing at 1, p. m.

The first and grandest object of interest is

### THE CAPITOL,

Standing on a plateau 90 feet above the level of the Potomac river. The front of the building faces the east, and that side looking towards the western front of the city is the rear;

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\*See advertisement.

and, this fact remembered, the stranger can easier understand, when he is told, as he approaches the building from the main part of the city, that he is entering by the back door. Entering the grounds from this side, we find a park of 50 acres, beautifully ornamented with flower beds, fountains, gravelled walks, and adorned with a great variety of shade trees, indigenous and foreign. During the summer months these grounds are places of delightful resort, open-air concerts by the United States Marine band being given by order of Congress every Wednesday afternoon. Let us, however, walk around the building to the east side or front of it, and, before entering, survey the grounds around, and the beautiful and massive proportions of the building. In the grounds our attention is attracted to a colossal statue representing George Washington. This was executed by Greenough, and is supposed to be in imitation of the ancients, who made their statues naked above and clothed below, as being visible to the gods, but invisible to men. The artist has quite succeeded in this statue, it being sufficiently exposed to the heavens, but scarcely recognizable in this garb to his countrymen. The entire length of the building is 751 feet 4 inches; its greatest depth is 324 feet; height, from the basement floor to top of the bronze statue of Liberty, 300 feet, and the area covered is 153,112 square feet. We see before us three great flights of steps or main entrances. The one on the north wing conducts to the Senate Chamber, that on the south to the Hall of Representatives, and the centre one to the Rotunda. The two wings, occupied by the Senate and House of Representatives respectively, are "extensions," their corner-stones having been laid July 4, 1851, by President Fillmore, and the structures finished in November, 1867. The material used in their construction is white marble, all from the quarries of Lee, Massachusetts, except the columns, which were quarried in solid blocks at Cockeysville Maryland. The central portion of the building is built of sandstone from Aquia Creek, Virginia, and is painted white. Its corner-stone was laid September 18, 1793, by President Washington, and, after being partially destroyed by fire by the British in 1814, was finally completed in 1827. It has, during the past ten years, undergone some alterations easily distinguished, the principal ones

being those of replacing the old Dome by the present stupendous one of cast iron, and the remodeling and rebuilding of the Library.

The tympanum of the central pediment is decorated with a group, in *alto-relievo*, of three figures, representing the Genius of America, Hope, and Justice, with appropriate emblems. This group is said to have been designed by John Quincy Adams. The northern pediment contains a group, by Thomas Crawford, representing the progress of civilization in the United States. The southern pediment has not yet been filled. The group on the north cheek-block of the steps to the central portico is by Horatio Greenough, and represents the early struggles of our pioneer settlers. In a corresponding position opposite is Persico's group representing Columbus discovering America. On the right and left of the entrance to the Rotunda are Persico's statues of Mars and Ceres, symbolizing war and peace; and immediately over the door is Campellano's bas-relief of Fame and Peace crowning a bust of Washington with wreaths of laurel.

Entering this door, we find ourselves immediately in the

#### ROTUNDA,

A circular room, occupying the centre of the whole building. It is 96 feet in diameter, and from its floor to the base of the lantern above is 203 feet.

The large historical paintings decorating the walls were ordered by Congress at different times, and cost about \$100,000. Full descriptions of the details are printed on cards hung below each picture. The panels above these paintings contain bas-reliefs (done principally by Italian artists) illustrating the early history of America. Above these are colonnades supporting the great Dome, which contracts to a diameter of sixty-five feet, and through this diameter is seen, as if in the clouds, Brumidi's allegorical painting representing different subjects, principally connected with American history.

To ascend to the top of the Dome, stairs are built between its inner and outer shell, affording easy access to all its parts, and giving the visitor ample opportunity to examine the de-



tails of its wonderful beauties, and repaying the labor of an ascent to the lantern at the top, by laying before the astonished eye a panorama of the surrounding scenery, with all its beauties and historic interest. By the aid of a glass, on a clear day, objects at a distance of many miles may be seen. The method of lighting this Rotunda is curious and novel. It is done by electricity, the fluid passing from burner to burner, until the whole number, 1,300 in all, from the lowest one to the lantern itself, 300 feet above, are all in a blaze. The time occupied in lighting them is 4 minutes. It may be well to state just here, that at the doors of the Rotunda, and in fact all over the building, may be seen the gentlemanly members of the Capitol police, easily distinguished by their uniforms, and who are always ready to give the visitor any information or assistance in his desires to see all the objects of interest about the building. On our way from the Rotunda to the House of Representatives we pass through the Old Hall, where have deliberated many of the greatest minds our nation has produced. The room is semi-circular in form, 95 feet long, 60 high. The twenty-four massive Corinthian columns, which support the entablature, are of variegated Potomac marble. Several specimens of sculpture, especially that piece forming the clock over the main entrance from the Rotunda, are interesting relics of the by-gone days of our Republic. By a resolution of Congress the hall has been set apart as a receptacle for historical paintings and sculpture. Leaving this room, we enter the lobby of the Hall of Representatives. As we enter, let us stop to examine those two massive bronze doors, whose richly-ornamented representations, in bas relief, of interesting periods in the life of Columbus, will well repay inspection. The designs are by Rogers, and the castings were done in Munich. Leaving the doors, we now find ourselves in what is called the "Lobby," the wide hall entirely surrounding the House of Representatives. During the sessions of Congress these halls are continually crowded with Members of Congress and their importunate friends, sight-seers, attachés, and hundreds of others, forming an exciting and interesting scene.

## THE HALL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Is 139 feet long, 93 feet wide, and 30 feet high. A gallery, running entirely around the Hall, will accommodate 1,500 persons: a portion directly above the Speaker's chair being set apart exclusively for the reporters for the press, and the remaining seats on that side for the ladies—a small portion being reserved for the diplomatic corps. To other parts of the gallery gentlemen are admitted without reserve. Access to the floor of the House can be obtained during the recesses of Congress, but during their sessions privileged persons only are admitted.

The reporters for the Government occupy the lower seats directly in front of the Speaker's chair and facing the members, and those gentlemen occupying the row of seats between the reporters' and the Speaker's chairs are the clerks of the House. The ceiling of the Hall is of iron, (as is much of the ornamental work about the walls,) and is supported by trusses from the roof. The stained glass panels represent each the coat of arms of a State. At night the Hall is illuminated by gas-jets lighted by electricity. Immediately in the rear of the Speaker's chair is his room, and adjoining are the rooms of other officers. The rooms for the accommodation of the different committees and the post office for the members and other rooms are located across the lobby on this floor and on those above and below. Many of them are beautifully decorated in fresco, and form some of the most interesting and beautiful sights to be seen in the building. The stranger should not fail to see these, even if it be necessary to obtain special permission from some of the officers, members, or clerks to unlock the doors. The large and beautiful painting on the wall, at the head of the stairs leading to the upper floor, is by Leutze, and is entitled, "Westward the Star of Empire takes its way." The grand marble stair-cases ascending and descending, and the bronze stair-case leading from the private lobby to the floor below, are well worthy of critical examination. On the floor beneath the Hall, besides the handsomely-decorated committee-rooms and passage-ways, the graceful and variegated marble columns and walls, and

other attractions that startle the stranger with wonder and admiration at every turn, there is a room devoted to the important subject of gastronomy, where, by special permission of Congress, a caterer dispenses everything that is necessary to the hungry appetite. By another special resolution intoxicating liquors are forbidden in the building. On this floor, it is worth while to stand at the north entrance-door and look down the corridor extending the whole length of the Capitol building. At the other end, looking like a small window, may be seen the north entrance-door, nearly 800 feet distant. This corridor is  $24\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad, and at the north end are 30 monolithic fluted columns of white marble, with capitals foliated with tobacco leaves and buds, supporting a ceiling of cast-iron panels. Going through this corridor, you pass the folding-rooms and the rooms of the political campaign committees. In the former, the public documents of the House are securely wrapped and sealed, and mailed by the thousand daily to all parts of the country. From the rooms of the campaign committees, Republican and Democratic, millions of speeches have been circulated; many more, indeed, during the last campaign than there were voters in our land, now happily peaceful and prosperous.

We have now mentioned about all of especial interest on this side of the building. In the centre of the opposite, or north wing, located and shaped similarly with the Hall of Representatives, is

#### THE SENATE CHAMBER,

112 feet long, 82 wide, 30 high. Its arrangement is very similar to the fore-mentioned Hall, but across the lobby, immediately in the rear of the Vice President's chair, are several objects of attraction. These are the President's Room, the Vice President's Room, and the Senator's Retiring-Room. The latter is one of the gems of the building. The ceiling is of white marble, deeply paneled, supported by highly-polished Italian marble columns; the walls are of Tennessee marble, in which are set huge plate-glass mirrors. The ornamentation of the two other rooms is very beautiful. It is typical of the history of the country. On the walls of the Presi-

dent's room are painted portraits of the first President and his Cabinet. The Reception Room, Senate Post Office, and other rooms are also beautiful apartments. The two bronze stair-cases leading to the basement, the rich ornamentation in the committee-rooms on that floor, and the exquisite fresco work in the corridors, are rare sights, and will bear the minutest examination.

Ascending to the gallery on the west side of the Senate Chamber, the large and beautiful painting, the "Storming of Chapultepec," claims the admiration of the visitor. On the east side, at the head of the stairs, is a large painting, representing General Scott before the city of Mexico; and, at the foot, a marble statue, life size, of Benjamin Franklin. In fact, whichever way the eye may turn something novel, beautiful, and interesting demands his attention. Away down in the depths of the building not an uninteresting sight is the enginery used in heating the building. Huge fans forcé up through innumerable flues the hot and cold air. The luxurious bath-rooms for the use of the members and employees, the cellars for holding fuel, the deep depths themselves, call forth exclamations of admiration at the wonderful details of this magnificent structure.

The entrance to the east side of the Senate is effected through two bronze doors, which, at the present time of writing, are just being placed in position. Comparing them with the two doors of similar material before mentioned, leading to the House of Representatives, in some respects an American may be proud of them. Artistically considered, they do not bear off the palm. They were designed by Crawford; but he died before finishing them, and his work was completed by Rinehart, a Baltimore sculptor. The most satisfactory comparison an American can make is, that these doors were cast in this country, while the others were done abroad. They represent Peace and War, the idea being to connect, as far as possible, the Father of our Country with those two eras.

Let us now make our way back towards the old or main building. Leaving the main entrance-door to the Senate, we proceed along the corridor that leads through the Rotunda directly to the House of Representatives. It is through this corridor that the messages between the two Houses are car-

ried by their respective clerks. Before we reach the Rotunda, on the left hand side of the Hall is the

#### SUPREME COURT ROOM,

Semicircular in form, seventy-five feet long, forty-five high. The Ionic columns supporting the gallery at the rear are of Potomac marble. This room was formerly the Senate Chamber of the United States, and here, as in the old Hall of Representatives, memories cluster of palmy days and important debates mingled in by the greatest minds of the nation. Now, the solemn and almost oppressive deliberations and proceedings during court days settle down upon the visitor with weighty importance. The judges presiding over the court are attired in black silk gowns, the centre figure being the Chief Justice, and those at his sides the Associate Justices. Opposite the Supreme Court Room, across the corridor, is the Court of Claims Room. Underneath these rooms is the Law Library, containing nearly 20,000 law volumes, the choicest collection in America. It is particularly rich in works upon the civil, maritime, and commercial law.

Passing through the Rotunda once more and out of its western door, we enter what is perhaps the most interesting object of all,

#### THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY.

The Library was once entirely and once partially destroyed by fire, the former by the British in 1814, and the latter by accident in the winter of 1851. 40,000 volumes were lost on the latter occasion. In view of the danger of such occurrences the present room, when reconstructed, was built entirely of iron, the main room being completed in 1853 and the wings in 1867. The volumes in the Library now number nearly 200,000, the collection having been lately increased by the addition of the library of Peter Force, ex-mayor of Washington, whose labors for many years had collected the most valuable number of books on State affairs in the country. The volumes are all catalogued and arranged in such a manner as to be found in a moment. Although any one is allowed to examine

the books, none are permitted to be taken away except by the President of the United States, the Vice President, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, Judges of the Supreme Court, Cabinet officers, the Diplomatic Corps, Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House of Representatives, and agent of the Joint Committee on the Library.

The Document Libraries are situated in incommodious rooms in out-of-the-way corners of the building, and contain nearly 100,000 volumes of documents, laws, reports, debates, etc., and are accessible to members of Congress and persons introduced by them.

These include all the prominent objects of interest about the Capitol; and the heart of the American swells with pride as he views the massive proportions and minute and harmonious details of the building, connected so closely with much that is sacred, honored, and memorable in history.

Just east of the grounds, and on that side of the Capitol, within a stone's throw of it, is a spot full of interest, but now hardly recognizable in this connection. On the corner once stood what was known as the Old Capitol, and during the late war as

## ✕ THE OLD CAPITOL PRISON

In the year 1814 the building that stood on this spot was occupied by Congress while the Capitol itself was undergoing the repairs made necessary by the vandalism of the British troops. It had since been used as a dwelling-house, but at the beginning of the war was taken possession of by the Government as a prison, and used for that purpose during the continuance of the rebellion. In this connection it has a peculiar history—sadness, mystery, gloom and death forming its principal chapters. It has since been entirely changed and remodeled, and to-day four handsome cheerful houses stand upon the spot, completely obliterating all traces of the old building.

Directly south of the Capitol, on New Jersey avenue, are

## THE COAST-SURVEY BUILDINGS, X

plain and ordinary in their appearance, and once used as dwelling-houses.

## THE EXECUTIVE MANSION X

Is situated in the western section of the city. The building was commenced in 1792; was modeled after the palace of the Duke of Leinster; is 170 feet front and 86 deep, and is built of free-stone, painted white. The East Room is used as the grand reception-room, and is located in the eastern end of the building, is 80 feet long, 40 wide, and 20 high. The green-room, red-room, and blue-room are also used on certain public occasions, and receive their peculiar names from the color of the walls and furniture. The western end is used for the President's private family; and leading out from this end is the Conservatory, containing a great variety of rare plants in almost constant bloom. On the second floor, at the eastern end, are located the public offices of the President and his private secretaries. The grounds around the building are kept in good order, and during the favorable seasons present a beautiful appearance. Concerts are given in the grounds south of the Mansion every Saturday afternoon during the summer months, and always attract a gay and fashionable assemblage. In the grounds north of the building there stands a bronze statue of Jefferson, presented to but never officially received by the Government, by Captain Levy, United States Navy. Public receptions are usually given by the President semi monthly, during the later winter months, in the evening, and also upon every New Year's day. Interviews can be had for public business usually between the hours of 11 and 1 upon every day of the week except two, which are called cabinet-days, when he is closeted with the members of his Cabinet for consultation. The public, however, while they may remember that the President is supposed to be the "servant of the people," and that a portion of his time may be devoted to receiving the congratulations and general hand-shakings of the "sovereigns," should not forget



that his time is very precious, and that their interviews, unless upon important business, and at his request, should not be prolonged beyond two or three minutes.

Opposite and north of the "White House" is

### THE "LAFAYETTE SQUARE,"

A pleasant park, containing Clark Mills's bronze statue of President Jackson. The material used in casting this statue is made principally of the guns captured by General Jackson at Pensacola, and the four brass six pounders at the base of the pedestal were captured by the hero at the battle of New Orleans, in 1815. The entire height of the statue and pedestal is 16 feet, and the former is secured to the latter by nothing more than the balance of gravity, the centre being so nicely calculated as to balance the immense weight upon the hind feet of the horse. The entire cost was \$30 000.

Opposite the east side of the Executive Mansion is

### X THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The appearance of this building from the outside is at once appropriate and pleasing, and its harmonious architecture, massiveness, and surroundings, especially when viewed on the west side, are extremely imposing. The larger portion is built of granite, from Quincy quarries. Its interior is no less gratifying to the beholder, and admirably suited to the comfort of the occupants. With the exception of the centre, or older portion of the building, the rooms are large, commodious, airy, and well-lighted and furnished. The officers connected with the Treasury Department are, the Secretary or head of the Department, First and Second Comptrollers, and a Comptroller of the Currency, a Commissioner of Customs, Commissioner of Revenue, and Commissioner of Internal Revenue, six Auditors, a Treasurer, Register, and Solicitor, and the officers in charge of the Light House Board and Coast Survey. There are also a Director in charge of Statistics, a Supervising Architect, and a Superintendent of the building. With a written order from the Secretary, and under the direction of the Superintendent, the visitor can be admitted to the



Printing Division of the National Currency Bureau; but he must be unaccompanied by ladies, they not being admitted under any circumstances, except as employés. Heretofore, all the notes and bonds of the United States have been manufactured here, and the process is exceedingly novel and interesting. The ponderous hydraulic presses, the delicate cutting and counting-machines, the manufacture of paper and envelopes, the printing of the notes, and the intricate paths they are compelled to pursue, all present a busy and exciting scene. From a visit to the Loan Branch, Redemption Division, and Cash-Rooms of the Treasurer's Office, the visitor obtains some idea of the financial operations of the Government. The redemption and mutilation and the counting of the United States currency is, in these offices, an interesting proceeding.

West of the Treasury building, and just beyond the Executive Mansion, are the

#### WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS.

The buildings occupied by these Departments are insignificant and time worn in their appearance, and faulty in their architecture. They will shortly be replaced by such as are more worthy of the vast importance of the branches of our Government using them, and which will give greater satisfaction to both visitor and occupants. Proposals for designs for new buildings have already been issued. The building opposite the War Department, on the corner of 17th street and Pennsylvania avenue, and now occupied by a branch office (the Quartermaster General's) of the War Department, is the Corcoran Art Building, and was erected just before the beginning of the war by the liberality of Mr. W. W. Corcoran, a wealthy banker of Washington, for the exhibition of the works and the encouragement of artists. His noble design was unfortunately frustrated by the opening of the rebellion, and the building being needed by the Government, was taken possession of, and has since been used as the headquarters of the Quartermaster General. The large building on Seventeenth street, opposite the Navy Department, is called "Winder's Building," and has been used since its erection, many years ago.

by the branch offices of the War and Navy Departments. In fact, these Departments have grown to such an extent as to be compelled to occupy several buildings scattered about this neighborhood. The headquarters of the General commanding the United States armies is situated opposite the Winder's Building, on the corner of Seventeenth and F streets.

Still west of the last-described Departments is the

### U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY,

Connected with the Navy Department, and used principally for the purposes of hydrographical researches, although astronomical investigations are conducted to an important extent. As may be conjectured, there are many objects of rare interest to be seen, and all the instruments and appurtenances are of the finest and most valuable kind. The elevated site on which the Observatory stands, before the country became settled, was the camp of a branch of a noble tribe of Indians, to whom all the territory in this region belonged, and are thus described by Captain John Smith: "Such great and well-proportioned men are seldom seen, for they seem like giants to the English—yea, and to their neighbors; yet seemed of an honest and simple disposition, and with much ado restrained from adoring us as God." Many strange and wonderful legends are connected with this spot.

### EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

Just north of the Observatory, in a circular piece of ground situated at the intersection of several streets with Pennsylvania avenue, and forming a pleasant little park, is the Equestrian Statue of Washington, modeled and cast in bronze by Clark Mills.

The tall shaft of marble to the southeast of, and so distinctly seen from, the Observatory, and in fact from all parts of the city, is the unfinished

### WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The corner-stone of which was laid July 4, 1818. The original design contemplates a square column six hundred feet

high, and by the subscriptions of the people a height of one hundred and eighty-four feet has been attained, but for more than ten years these subscriptions have decreased to such a sum as to barely keep the present pile in repair. The design furnished by Robert Mills was a grand conception, and can be seen at the office in the Monument grounds. Lining the inside of the Monument, and also in the sheds erected near, are to be seen blocks of stone contributed by every nation, and almost every class of people of all nations, bearing suitable inscriptions, and intended to testify a universal respect for the great and good man. A feeling of sadness, almost of shame, comes over the visitor as he contemplates this unfinished structure. But history teaches us by numerous examples that such stupendous works, even in older and larger and more wealthy nations, were never built by voluntary contributions. East of the Monument, reaching as far as the Capitol, is a continuous stretch of public squares, to be improved ere long by beautiful flowers, noble trees, rare shrubbery, and extensive walks, forming one of the grandest and largest parks of the world.

In the square next east of the "Monument Square" is located the

### AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,

Destined to become one of the most important and useful branches of our Government. The grounds and building already present a very handsome appearance, and the former give ample field for experimental farming and gardening. The interior of the building presents a cheerful aspect, and the Museum, containing everything that is rare and curious in the vegetable world, is worth a prolonged visit.

Still going east, we come to the

### SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

This building is different in architecture from any other in the city, being of the Lombardian order, and is built of light-red sandstone, obtained from Seneca creek, about 23 miles from Washington. There are nine towers to the building, the

main one being 150 feet high. The corner-stone was laid May 1, 1847. The founder of this institution was James Smithson, a native of and residing in England, and a man of high scientific attainments. The legality of his bequest was tested in the English courts, but a final decision resulted in placing \$515,169 in the Treasury of the United States, for the accomplishment of the object of the testator—"the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." This sum still remains intact, the interest upon it having been so managed as not only to erect this handsome building, but to give its purposes proper support. The scientific results of the various Exploring Expeditions are stored here, and the Museum of Natural History and collections of curiosities, native and foreign, is the largest and best in America. The Library contains many rare and valuable works. The scientific investigations, conducted by the officers of the institution, occupy a prominent and important feature, and their results are appreciated by all similar institutions throughout the world. The building was seriously damaged by fire in 1865, but has since been repaired.

East of the Smithsonian Institution is the

### COLUMBIA ARMORY,

A grim and solid building, in which are stored a large quantity of ordnance and other war material, and many military trophies.

East of this building are the extensive grounds of the

### GOVERNMENT PROPAGATING GARDENS,

Where rare plants from all parts of the world can be seen in full bloom, forming a sight at once beautiful, rare, and curious.

About one and a half miles beyond the Capitol, and at the extreme eastern end of the city, is the

### WASHINGTON ALMS-HOUSE.

This handsome edifice dedicated to corporate charity, and the restraint and reformation of petty offenders, occupies an

elevated site, east of the Capitol, and is a rare specimen of the right building in the right place. Its architecture is pleasing and durable without unnecessary expense; and a visit to it will quicken the heart and gratify the taste.

On the way we pass the Wallach School Building, one of the public school-houses of Washington, and perhaps, as a building, as well adapted to its purpose as any other in the country.

We also pass the

### CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY,

The oldest and best known in the city. It receives its title from the fact that, when a member of Congress or a Senator of the United States dies, his memory is perpetuated in this grave-yard by a monument erected at the public expense; and thus a cemetery really belonging to a corporation has become known as, *par excellence*, "The Congressional."

In this section of the city, on the Anacostia river, (the Eastern Branch of the Potomac,) is located the

### WASHINGTON NAVY YARD.

The grounds covered comprise about 357 acres, and are entered, on the land side, through a handsome gateway, the first curiosity greeting the eye of the visitor being several guns, trophies of naval warfare, the inscriptions on each describing its history. The workshops, ordnance stores, mementoes of maritime adventure, ship-houses, and frequently monitors and war-vessels, all present objects of interest sufficient to occupy very profitably the time of the visitor.

Opposite the Navy Yard, on the other bank of the Eastern Branch, is located the

### GOVERNMENT ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

This large and beautifully-proportioned building occupies an elevated and commanding site, and in all its arrangements, internal and external, is a model institution. It was built under authority of an act of Congress, and is for the

accommodation of the insane of the army and navy of the United States and of the District of Columbia.

The bridge spanning the stream, and leading to the Insane Asylum, is the one traversed by the murderers Booth and Herold on the night of the assassination of President Lincoln, and the adjacent counties beyond in the State of Maryland were the ones where they were secreted and finally discovered.

### THE WASHINGTON ARSENAL

Is located on the extreme southern limit of the city, at the mouth of the Eastern Branch, and is in full view from the Navy Yard. Death dealing implements of war, of every imaginable construction and material, may be found here; also a museum containing offensive and defensive war material from every nation, arranged with such military precision, and in such a neat and orderly manner, as to form a curious attraction. Curiosities from the battle fields in the late war form a novel and at the same time useful feature. Just north of and contiguous to the Arsenal grounds formerly stood the Penitentiary building; but by a late act of Congress all convicts must be taken to the Albany (N. Y.) Penitentiary, and the building here, or such parts as were not required for the use of the Arsenal, were razed to the ground. It was here that the conspirators in the assassination of President Lincoln were tried and convicted, and on a spot which can be pointed out Payne, Herold, Atzerodt, and Mrs. Surratt were hung and afterwards buried. The spot where Booth's body was deposited, and about which affair there was so much mystery, can also be easily shown. The entrance to the Arsenal grounds faces  $4\frac{1}{2}$  street, and at the head of this street, (or half street,) about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of us, can be seen the

### CITY HALL.

The building was commenced in the year 1820; and after a long period during which it remained in a fragmentary state, was completed in 1850. It has a fine and commanding appearance, with front in the stucco style of architecture, of

200 feet in length. Its appropriation is somewhat varied, embracing the sessions of the Circuit and Criminal Courts, as well as those of the members of the City Councils. Here the Mayor has his office, and a large number of the city attorneys have business chambers. As a piece of architecture it ranks high, being distinguished by great elegance and symmetry. In the centre of the open space in front stands a monument to President Lincoln, erected in 1868 by the residents of Washington, and designed by one of its citizens.

Immediately to the northwest is the

### POST OFFICE.

On the site of the old Post Office building, which was burnt in December, 1836, stands the present Post Office, one of the finest structures in the city of Washington. The Corinthian is the order adopted by the architect, which, with a material of white marble, gives an effect altogether beautiful and imposing. Its fine front extends 204 feet, with 102 feet depth of wings, and three stories in height. Its front is on E street north, its east wing is on Seventh street, and its west wing on Eighth street. In the rear, and opening on F street, is the general delivery of the City Post Office, its accommodations being commodious and pleasant. It occupies a conveniently central position in the city, and is in all respects worthy of the city and of the important interests which it represents.

Behind the Post Office is the

### PATENT OFFICE.

This magnificent structure, the object of which stands so closely connected with mechanical and social progress, is in all respects admirably adapted to its purpose. The principal front of the building, with its splendid portico, in exact imitation of that of the Pantheon, looks down Eighth street. The grand entrance is here approached by a flight of granite steps, opening again into a spacious hall, from which a twofold flight of marble steps conducts to the fine galleries above. The centre portion of the building is applied to the purposes

of the Patent Office. The east wing gives accommodation to the Secretary of the Interior and his assistants, together with the Commissioner of Patents and his staff. One splendid saloon, designated the National Gallery, constitutes the second floor, and is carefully enriched with seemingly innumerable models of patents, which are really so classified and arranged as to be easily found, curiosities and mementoes, connected with the nation's history, specimens of home manufactures, and other objects of interest. A fourfold range of columns, of massive Doric architecture, rising to the height of 20 feet, and from which spring a series of arched ceilings 10 feet higher, give dignity and adornment to this splendid apartment. When, in connection with this, we take the fine cylindrical arch, rising superior to the others, and admitting light from above by its central aperture of 13 feet diameter, we are constrained to acknowledge the grand and imposing character of the whole. The other halls on the same level are on an equally magnificent scale, and in style corresponding with that already referred to—opening by lofty archways into the vast gallery just described, and giving in all a range of galleries of most extensive dimensions.

## X THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

At present occupies a building belonging to the Protestant Orphan Asylum of Washington. The building is located some distance out 14th street, and is temporarily occupied by the Department until a more suitable building is provided for them. The old State Department building stood on the spot where is now reared the beautiful north wing of the Treasury Department.

## THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING-OFFICE,

One of the largest establishments of the kind in the world, is located directly north of the Capitol. Nearly all the printing and binding required by Congress and the numerous Government Departments in Washington is done in this building, and the most recent and perfect machinery is employed in the execution of the work. Several hundred hands



are employed, and the scene presented during working hours is a busy and an interesting one.

### THE ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM,

A branch of the Surgeon General's Office is located on 10th street, between E and F streets, in the building formerly known as Ford's Theatre, and where the assassination of President Lincoln occurred. The interior of the building has been so altered as to leave no trace of its old appearance, and, consequently, considerable of the interest it would otherwise have, in connection with the scene of the assassination, is lost. It is now within cheerful and commodious, and is divided into several apartments, devoted to the investigation of everything that may be useful in the *materia medica* of the army. The results of these examinations are carefully recorded, and have been of incalculable assistance.

### CHURCHES.

The religious denominations of Washington embrace almost every faith, and some of their places of worship are handsome and imposing edifices: the most attractive ones being the Foundry, Wesley, Waugh, Ryland, McKendree, Metropolitan, and First Congregational, (the two latter building,) of the Methodists; the Trinity, Ascension, Epiphany, St. John's, St. Paul's, and Incarnation, of the Episcopal; the St. Aloysius, St. Dominick's, St. Patrick's, and St. Mathew's, of the Catholic; Calvary, First, E-street, and Fifth, of the Baptists; the First, New-York avenue, Fourth, Assembly's, Sixth, Western, and Capitol Hill, of the Presbyterian; St. Paul's and Memorial of the Lutheran; and the First, of the Congregational. The Hebrews, Unitarians, Swedenborgians, Quakers, Universalists, and Spiritualists, have each their respective places of worship.

### COLLEGES.

While Washington can boast of many first-class institutions of learning, its citizens point with particular pride to

the Columbian (at the head of 14th street) and Georgetown Colleges, and the Howard University, (at the head of 7th street.) The Law and Medical branches of each of these are well conducted and patronized. The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind is also one of the best-conducted institutions of the kind in the country; it is located in the northeastern part of the city, or rather in a pleasant suburb known as "Kendall Green."

### FOREIGN LEGATIONS.

With two or three unimportant exceptions, all the ambassadors from foreign countries reside at Washington. Their names, residences, and other information can be obtained at the State Department.

### LIBRARIES.

Nearly every Department of the Government has connected with it a library, accessible to the attachés, and containing many valuable, rare, and important works. Altogether they perhaps form the richest collection in the country. The Library of the Young Men's Christian Association is at present the only popular one in the city. It embraces about 25,000 volumes, of nearly every class of literature, and is open to visitors every day, from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. By the payment of an annual fee of \$2 books can be taken from the rooms.

### THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Have a handsome building at the corner of 9th and D streets, where the stranger will always find a welcome. The rooms are open from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.; newspapers and magazines, religious and secular, from all parts of the country, are to be found in the reading-rooms; a union prayer-meeting is held daily from 6 to 7 p. m.\*

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\*It was anticipated that the building referred to would be finished by the time this Guide would be ready for publication. Its construction having been delayed, the Association still occupy the pleasant rooms over Metzert's Hall, on Pennsylvania avenue, between 9th and 10th streets.

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ART. COLLECTIONS.

There are no public collections of paintings and other works of art, but several of the citizens have private galleries, which, at reasonable hours and days, are willingly opened to artists and lovers of art. The principal of these are the valuable collections of Mr. W. W. Corcoran, Mr. G. W. Riggs, Mr. J. C. McGuire, Mr. Francis De Haes Janvier, Jr., and Mr. Franklin Philp.

## PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

The principal places of amusement are the National Theatre, Pennsylvania avenue, between 13th and 14th streets, and Wall's Opera House, corner of 9th street and Pennsylvania avenue. Besides these, Metzert's Hall, Carroll Hall, and the Lecture-Room of the Y. M. C. A. present their attractions.

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THE VICINITY OF WASHINGTON

Is remarkably full of historic interest; its landscape scenery is wonderfully beautiful, and the drives around delightfully varied.

To the northeast, about 6 miles from Washington, is the village of

## BLADENSBURG

Interesting principally as the battle-ground in the war of 1812. On the road we pass the *debris* of lines of rifle-pits, heavy fortifications, and other marks of the late war. About four miles out is the "old duelling-ground," made memorable by the duels fought by Senator Mason, Commodore Decatur, Henry Clay, John Randolph, Midshipman Locke, Dr. Johnson, A. J. Dallas, and many others, all in their times prominent characters.

About two miles outside of Washington, and completely

encircling the city, is a chain of fortifications, completely connected by a military-road, forming a boulevard, which, by the aid of trees and shrubbery, judiciously cared for, would be equal to the famed drives surrounding the city of Paris. There were more than 50 large forts, besides as many smaller ones called batteries, and during the war mounted more than 1,000 guns, many of them of the heaviest calibre. All of the fortifications on the north and east sides have long since been dismantled, and are now either grass-grown or leveled with the surrounding earth, and completely obliterated by the farmer's ploughshare.

The section of country immediately north of the city is full of interest. Driving out the road north of the Capitol, the beautiful Cemetery of Glenwood is passed. Next comes in view what was during the war the site of Harewood Hospital, on the carefully-kept and elaborately-laid-out grounds of Mr. W. W. Corcoran. Sweeping around to the west, we suddenly come in sight of the

### MILITARY ASYLUM,

\* Or "Old Soldiers' Home," situated on an eminence commanding a grand and an extensive view, surrounded by grounds kept in perfect order and almost matchless beauty by the infirm veterans of the nation's defenders. The building itself is handsome and commodious, and during the summer months the President and his family are invited to reside there. In the rear of the Asylum may be seen a section of ground covering many acres, handsomely fenced in, ornamented with flower-beds, evergreens, shrubbery, and clinging vines, beautifully and tenderly cared for. Here sleep thousands of those who a few years ago were in all the vigor and prime of manhood; those who left home and kindred to pour out their life's blood for that flag which had been so ruthlessly assailed; some of them perchance are our brothers, all of them our friends. A simple head-board, painted white, having inscribed on it in black letters the name, rank, etc., of deceased, marks each grave. North of the Asylum is the Rock-Creek Church, a solemn-looking edifice, built in the time of Washington, of material brought from England.

A drive of nearly a mile brings us to the 7th-street road, and about two miles north is the spot where the conflict occurred between the rebels and the 6th army corps. This was the nearest the southern troops approached to the city during the war; but, by the timely arrival of the valiant 6th corps, their march was stayed. Their officers entertained themselves at Montgomery Blair's country residence, "Crystal Spring," which is situated just inside the city limits, on the 7th-street road. Continuing our drive towards Georgetown, on the Rock-Creek road, we pass the section where it is proposed to establish a Park, which for natural beauty shall exceed any in the country, and with the aid of artificial adornments equal any in the world. We are now on the 14th-street road, selected as the favorite drive during the pleasant summer afternoons of all possessing a fast team. Passing Columbian College and continuing west by a way having scenery remarkable for its rugged beauty, we arrive at

### GEORGETOWN,

Washington's twin city, three miles west of the Capitol, and only separated from the city of Washington by Rock Creek, which is spanned by a beautiful iron bridge, constructed on a novel plan. The city is located upon high ground, and commands a beautiful prospect of the capital and the valley of the Potomac. It is a port of entry, and carries on a considerable foreign and coasting-trade, and is also the greatest shad and herring-market in the United States; large quantities of these fish being caught in the Potomac and brought here for barreling. The flouring business is extensively carried on, and keeps about fifty mills in constant operation. Manufacturing has also been introduced, and has lately become an important branch of industry; the natural advantages for water-power being so abundant as only to require a reasonable outlay of capital to make them the most productive in the United States. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal is carried over the Potomac at this place, upon an aqueduct 1,446 feet long and 36 feet high, costing in its construction two million dollars. The canal extends to Cumberland, a distance of 184 miles, through a country

teeming with mineral productions for fuel and building purposes. The entire cost of the work was \$12,000,000. There are eight churches in the city, two banks, a college, a nunnery, and several hotels. A line of two steamers has lately been established between this port and New York, for carrying freight and passengers.

On the heights of Georgetown, upon the western slope of the banks of Rock Creek, and beautifully laid out in terraces and walks overshadowed by tall oak trees, is

### OAK-HILL CEMETERY.

The ground is varied by hill and dale, and commands most charming views of the exquisite scenery of the valley of the stream, broken into vistas and secluded nooks by the undulating and varied nature of the ground. There are already many grand monuments erected here, and numerous vaults prepared for the wealthier families of the District. The vault belonging to the donor, Mr. Corcoran, stands upon the brow of the hill, in a very conspicuous and beautiful location, and is surmounted by a primitive Grecian temple of the Doric order, octagonal in form, and built of white marble, at a cost of over \$25,000. The granite monument to Bodisco, the late Russian minister, is worthy of notice. The shaft was sent from St. Petersburg, by the Russian Government. The entrance is graced by a tasteful Gothic lodge, of sandstone. The stone Chapel, overgrown with ivy, is an attractive and beautiful feature of the Cemetery.

### LITTLE FALLS.

Three miles westward from Georgetown the Potomac forms a succession of cascades, designated the "Little Falls." The noble river is at this point beautiful enough to provide immortal fame for the artist who shall properly delineate it. Overlooking its turbulence, the traveller crosses a bridge, the structure of which assures him instinctively of his safety, and he arrives on the Virginia shore. Following the highway for fifteen miles, over picturesque hills and through fine forests, he finds a cross-road leading to the

## GREAT FALLS.

This romantic water-fall, without any pretension to the majesty of Niagara, is a sublime specimen of the wildest mood of nature. Through fierce and jagged barriers of rock, the river forces its imperial march with such vehemence as seems to involve an immediate agent stronger than the force of gravity; foaming and boiling, the crests of the hurried billows appear to be white masses, hurled by Titanic hands. The whole scene is of that kind called savage, but may be more properly styled regal, nature—or the laws of nature, known and unknown, asserting the supremacy of the original force over all barriers.

This point of the river furnishes the water used by the people of Washington, which is conveyed to them by means of the

## WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.

This vast enterprise has cost the nation nearly three millions of dollars. Some of the difficulties of its construction may be inferred from the following official description of the country through which it passes: "The traveller ascending the banks of the Potomac from Georgetown to the Great Falls would conclude that a more unpromising region for the construction of an aqueduct could not be found. Supported by high walls against the face of jagged and vertical precipices, in continual danger of being undermined by the foaming torrent which boils below, the canal (the Chesapeake and Ohio) is a monument of the energy and daring of our engineers. The route appears to be occupied, and no mode of bringing in the water, except by iron pipes secured to the rocks or laid in the bed of the canal, seems practicable. Such were my own impressions; and though I knew that in this age, with money, any achievement of engineering was possible, I thought the survey would be needed only to demonstrate by figures and measures the extravagance of such a work. But when the levels were applied to the ground, I found, to my surprise and gratification, that the rocky precipices and difficult passages were nearly all below the line which, allowing a

uniform grade, would naturally be selected for our conduit; and that, instead of demonstrating the extravagance of the proposal, it became my duty to devise a work presenting no considerable difficulties, and affording no opportunities for the exhibition of any triumphs of science or skill."

The conduit is nine feet in dimension, and discharges 67,596,400 gallons in twenty-four hours. Some idea of the magnitude of the enterprise may be formed by comparing the statement above given with the fact that the Croton aqueduct supplies 37,000,000 gallons, and Philadelphia and Boston are only respectively guarantied 15,000,000 and 10,176,570 gallons during the same period.

There are, in all, eleven tunnels, some of them many hundred feet in length, and six bridges. The largest of the bridges is one of the most stupendous achievements of the kind in this country. It spans a small tributary of the Potomac, called the Cabin-John creek, by a single arch, two hundred and twenty feet in span, and one hundred feet high. The receiving-reservoir is formed by throwing a dam across a small stream known as the Powder-Mill or Little-Falls branch. The dam is of pounded earth, and floods above fifty acres, making a reservoir of irregular shape, containing, at a level of one hundred and forty feet above high tide, 82,521,500 gallons. The water leaves it a distance of three thousand feet from the point where it enters, and, in slowly passing across this pool, which deepens to thirty or forty feet near the exit, it deposits most of its sediment. The Powder-Mill branch supplies two or three millions of gallons of pure water daily to the reservoir. The Great Falls of the Potomac, from whence the supply of water is obtained, are nineteen miles distant.

Returning to Georgetown, and crossing the Aqueduct, we reach, after a few miles,

### ARLINGTON,

Situated on the banks of the Potomac, directly opposite Washington. This was once the residence of George Washington Parke Custis, a near relative of General Washington. It descended to the Lee family, and up to the war was the



residence of the family of Robert E. Lee. Since then it has been used by the Government to whom it belongs, having been purchased at a tax sale. Latterly the grounds have been used by the Freedman's Bureau, and Freedman's village has sprung up, and it is here the infirm and helpless freed slaves have been supported by the Government. There is also an extensive cemetery, where thousands of our fallen heroes lie buried. What a change a few years have wrought! Who can tell what plottings of treason have been talked of in that house, now purified, and made sacred as memorial grounds of the great victory!

Passing on our left the "Long Bridge," (connecting the Washington with the Virginia shore,) and over which the troops who first set foot on sacred soil advanced, and on our right the fortifications they erected, and the memorable spots where waved rebellion's flag, in full sight of the citizens of Washington, we arrive at

### ALEXANDRIA,

Distant seven miles from Washington, with which city there is a constant communication by steamboat and railroad. The width of the river and the depth of its waters form here a fine harbor for the commerce of this portion of the country, which, although it has not arrived at the greatness anticipated in former years, is still considerable, and is principally employed in the transportation of coal, tobacco, and corn. In the latter part of his life, George Washington was a pew-holder in Christ Church, and many reminiscences of that great man are preserved in the records of this ancient church, and also in the archives of Washington Lodge, No. 22, of Free and Accepted Masons. Alexandria is connected with Georgetown and the West by a canal, and a considerable manufacturing business is carried on.

About seven miles south of Alexandria is

### MOUNT VERNON,

Once the home, and now the resting-place, of the immortal Washington. The estate has been allowed to pass into sad repair; but having now become the property of the women of

America, it is to be hoped it will be made more worthy of the ashes that repose there.

The tomb contains the remains of Washington and his wife Martha, and is a plain brick structure, having in front an iron-grating door, through which may be seen the sarcophagi enclosing the remains. The mansion contains many historical relics, among which may be mentioned the Key of the Bastille, presented by La Fayette, portions of the military and personal furniture of Washington, family portraits, and musical instruments, &c. Steamboats run from Washington to Mount Vernon twice every week; a portion of the passage-money is devoted to the care and support of the buildings and grounds. This is the only money received from the people for this object.

The steamboats stop at

### FORT WASHINGTON,

On the opposite side of the river, about six miles from Alexandria, built in 1812, and strongly fortified during the late war. It was erected for offensive operation against the river-side only.

We have now shown the visitor all the sights of Washington. His next desire undoubtedly is to see its inner life, its giddy whirl of gayety and fashion; and to help him in this a few remarks upon

### SOCIETY AND ETIQUETTE

Will not be amiss. The following code of official etiquette is generally understood:

*The President.*—Business calls are received at all times and hours, when the President is unengaged: the morning hours are preferred. Special days and evenings are assigned each season for calls of respect; one morning and evening a week being usually assigned for this purpose.

Receptions are held during the winter season generally once a week, between eight and ten o'clock in the evening; at which time guests are expected in full dress, and are presented by the usher.

The President holds a public reception on the first of January, when the Diplomatic Corps present themselves in court costume, and the officers of the Army and Navy in full uniform. The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the Government are received between the hours of eleven and twelve, after which the Diplomatic Corps, officers of the Army and Navy, and civilians *en masse*.

The President accepts no invitations to dinner, and makes no calls or visits of ceremony; but is at liberty to visit, without ceremony, at his pleasure.

An invitation to dinner at the President's must be accepted in writing, and a previous engagement cannot take precedence.

The address of the Executive, in conversation, is *Mr. President*.

*The Vice President.*—A visit from the Vice President is due the President on the meeting of Congress. He is entitled to the first visit from all others, which he may return by card or in person.

*The Supreme Court.*—The Judges call upon the President and Vice President annually, upon the opening of the court and on the first day of January.

*The Cabinet.*—Members of the President's Cabinet call upon the President on New Year's day. First calls are also due from them, by card or in person, to the Vice President, Judges of the Supreme Court, Senators, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the meeting of Congress.

*The Senate.*—Senators call in person upon the President and Vice President on the meeting of Congress and first day of January. They also call, in person, or by card upon the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the meeting of Congress.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives.*—The Speaker calls upon the President on the meeting of Congress and the first day of January. The first call is also due from him to the Vice President on the meeting of Congress.

*The House of Representatives.*—Members of the House of Representatives call in person upon the President on the first day of January, and upon the Speaker of the House at the opening of each session. They also call, by card or in person, upon the President, Vice President, Judges of the Su-

preme Court, Cabinet officers, Senators, Speaker of the House' and Foreign Ministers, soon after the opening of each session of Congress.

*Foreign Ministers.*—The Diplomatic Corps call upon the President on the first day of January, and upon the Vice President, Cabinet officers, Judges of the Supreme Court, Senators, and Speaker of the House, by card or in person, on the first opportunity after presenting their credentials to the President. They also make an annual call of ceremony, by card or in person, upon the Vice President, Judges of the Supreme Court, Senators, and Speaker of the House, soon after the meeting of Congress.

*The Court of Claims.*—The Judges of the Court of Claims call in person upon the President on the first day of January and the Fourth of July. They also make first visits to Cabinet officers and the Diplomatic Corps, and call, by card or in person, upon the Judges of the Supreme Court, Senators, Speaker and members of the House, soon after the meeting of Congress.

*The Families of Officials.*—The rules which govern officials are also applicable to their families, in determining the conduct of social intercourse.

We have some pride and much pleasure in stating, that any individual, having legitimate business with any department, from the President downwards, will find that all reasonable requests are met with the utmost politeness. From the highest to the lowest, the conduct of the officials at the seat of Government is regulated by a code of courtesy, which is based upon the recognized sovereignty of the people. No fees are needed to procure access to the President or the chiefs of departments during the hours set apart for the approach of the public. If a document has been filed away in some dusty pigeon-hole for half a century, and you are entitled to peruse it, although it may require several days of labor, the proper officer will in due time produce it for your inspection. No armed sentinels morosely oppose the entrance of the humblest; patience seems to be the universal characteristic of the employés. Perhaps it may not be out of place to suggest, that an equal courtesy requires the visitor to avoid an unnecessary

consumption of public time, by requesting what cannot be given, or asking questions which cannot be answered.

The general laws for social etiquette are the same everywhere, and are expressed in two words, *politeness* and *good breeding*; and it is only necessary to observe these rules to insure proper conduct at public and private receptions. The *gentleman and the lady* in republican society will be recognized, acknowledged, and respected, no matter what rules a snobbish aristocracy may make in regard to dress and conduct.

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## GENERAL REMARKS.

The question of the location of the capital of the nation caused much and angry debate in the sessions of Congress, held in Philadelphia, in 1783; but after serious deliberation it was decided to locate it on the banks of the Potomac, on the spot advocated by Washington. His attention was arrested by the advantages which this location presents for a city when he was a youthful surveyor of the country around and he encamped with Braddock's forces on the hill now occupied by the Observatory, which was long known as Camp Hill from this circumstance. His earnest desire that the seat of Government should be located here is said also to have had great influence in the decision of Congress. Washington directed Major L'Enfant in planning the city, and finding him somewhat arbitrary and refractory, he appointed Andrew Ellicott in his place.

## STREETS.

In laying out the plan of the city, Mr. Ellicott drew a meridional line, by astronomical observation, through the area intended for the capital, and upon this basis laid off two sets of streets, intersecting each other at right angles, and distinguished by letters and numbers. The streets running north and south are numbered, and those running east and west are lettered, taking the Capitol as a starting-point. Avenues were then projected, cutting the streets at various angles, and

connecting the most prominent and favorable points of the city; the avenues intersecting each other and forming open spaces at certain points previously determined upon. These avenues are named after, and located to correspond with, the position of the different States in the Union, and are from 130 to 160 feet wide; the streets vary from 90 to 110 feet.

#### HEALTH.

Owing to the wide streets and numerous open spaces, as well as to natural salubrity, the city and District are almost entirely exempt from epidemics; the diseases incident to compact and crowded cities are here scarcely known. There are very few deaths from malarious diseases, and the number of these is annually decreasing. A large proportion of the deaths amongst strangers, for which the climate of Washington is sometimes held responsible, is to be attributed to two causes—the entire change of diet and mode of life, by which the constitution is weakened and every lurking disease strengthened, and too frequently the casting away of the moral integrity of home, by which the same result is obtained, and the victim of unusual dissipation is charged to the account of the climate of the seat of Government.

#### POPULATION.

The population of Washington has from year to year largely and steadily increased, until now it numbers 130,000 souls. This number is vastly increased during the sessions of Congress. The war wrought an important and happy change in the character of the population. Many prophesied the degeneracy and ruin of the city, but a few years have given evidence of the energy and intelligence of the new influx, and the city is now on the sure road to prosperity, importance, and a front rank amongst the cities of the United States. Some suppose that Washington, or the residents of Washington, have spurned the moral laws which govern all well-ordered and Christian communities; and, by the feeblest attempts at wit ever perpetrated, have attempted to cast ridicule upon the magnificent proportions of a political

capital, which was designed upon a scale drawn from the potential necessities of a nation whose greatness even the present generation has only faintly conceived.

It is well to bear in mind that the march of the city in population and magnificence has kept steady lock-step with the advance of national power and population. With regard to morals, it is not to be denied that Washington is the abode of a legion of foul vices; but this is a matter not of reproach to its permanent residents, but of shame to every patriot, and will be cured when THE PEOPLE of every large city and of each remote hamlet shall have acquired a proper reverence for their liberties, a due conviction of the sanctity of their political duties, and shall have determined to exercise a vigilant and inflexible purpose to commit their interests to none but the wisest, best, and purest of their fellow-citizens. When this shall have been attained, Washington will cease to bear an undeserved reproach, and will have less cause to regret the presence of the camp-followers of Congress.

DAVID A. BURR,

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IN PATENT CASES.

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